

WRESTLING FORUM

JUNE 30, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 12

THIS ISSUE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY
of licking postage stamps

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FORMING A NEW TAG TEAM

enough is enough. I'm tired of all the little brats in the neighborhood picking on my daughter. They double team her and even triple team her for no apparent reason. Because of that, my wife and I have decided to pair her with a partner and take on the kids in a series of...

Sorry. Got a little carried away there. That was just my way of telling you all that the February 15, 1989 edition may be a little late. We just found out that the newest member of the Gallagher clan is due to arrive somewhere around that day. That not only means learning how to change diapers again, but also selecting a name. If it's a boy, I'm favoring Sweet Stan or Beautiful Bobby with Nikita, Soldat and Brutus all running a close second. My wife has threatened me with bodily violence if I even mention those names around a birth certificate. Oh well, there's plenty of time to come up with a name and if any of you would like to get involved, be our guest.

In the meantime (and I promise not to litter these pages with intimate details of our pregnancy over the next eight months) welcome to yet another edition in the ever continuing series of Wrestling Forums. We, of course, publish on the 15th and 30th of each month and mail the following day. Price per issue is \$1.50 and you may subscribe for any length of time up to six months worth (\$18.00 total)...Subscriptions outside the US and Canada are now \$2.50 each issue.

We continue to make changes around here to produce a better product at the most reasonable cost. Last issue I mentioned that we were trying to buy (or lease) a new typewriter and that I hoped to have it by this time. That is on hold for the moment because of several factors, the main one being cost. The typewriter I wanted would cost us around \$1500 and that's a little more than I really wanted to spend. I've always been deathly afraid of computer systems for fear that something I spent hours working on would be swallowed up whole and forever lost in the memory of the thing. But we must progress with the times, I guess, and with Kelly going into school in the next couple of years, I guess the computer is an option we're going to have to seriously consider.

Another change that we're going to be implementing is the postage system. I'm tired of licking stamps, especially when the post office won't print up 45¢ stamps that we need to get the bulletin out here in the States. We're going to rent a postage meter and it should be installed by next issue, if not this one. The meter will cost us, but it should save a bunch of time in producing the bulletin, plus I won't be losing stamps all over the house.

I'd like to thank those of you who wrote in to complement us on the last issue. Sean was a major help in producing it and I just let him handle whatever he wanted. Should I ever decide to give up the bulletin, Sean would in all probability, be the one to take it over (that is, unless he's changed his mind after seeing what's actually involved). That won't be for quite a while though. For those of you who suggested that Sean move here to Illinois permanently to help produce the bulletin, I will censor his comments. For those of you who suggested that I move to New York...well, I'm not sure New York would be quite ready for me.

Now things are back to half way normal and hopefully we'll stay on schedule. Lot's going on and a couple of stories that may have wide ranging repercussions, so let's check in with the Barometer first, then it's on to the news...

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THE WRESTLING BAROMETER: JUNE, 1988

BY JEFF SIEGEL

Welcome to the June edition of "The Wrestling Barometer", Wrestling Forum's exclusive monthly look at what's hot and what's not in the wacky world of professional wrestling!

A slow month for the "Barometer"--one of the slowest in some time--due, no doubt, to last month's "no show". A couple of interesting developments, nevertheless.

As usual, we begin with a quick review of the procedure that's used for tallying "Barometer" entries: 5 points is awarded for a first place vote, 3 points is awarded for a second place vote, 1 point is awarded for a third place vote, and $\frac{1}{2}$ point is awarded for every item that is included on a voter's list from fourth place on. Then, a minimum point total is arbitrarily decided upon for inclusion in this column. The minimum point total allows us to focus on the month's major trends.

Now, on to the June results:

WHAT'S HOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 15 POINTS)

1. The Windham turn/Windham interviews (22 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
2. Jerry Lawler's first-ever reign as "World Champion" (18 points)
3. Bubba Bossman's new WWF gimmick (16 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)

WHAT'S NOT

(NEEDED TO QUALIFY: 15 POINTS)

1. "Great American Bash" potential (19 points)
2. Rougeau Brothers' turn (18 $\frac{1}{2}$ points)
3. JCP payroll problems (16 points)
4. Bubba Bossman's new WWF gimmick (15 points)

NOTES: It took the weakest "Barometer" showing in months for Big Dust to avoid a top-of-the-heap finish on the "not" side. However, if you want to nit-pick, I guess you could hold him responsible for the "Bash's" dim outlook.....Barry Windham continues to dominate the up side. It appears that the impact of his turn ranks right up there with Randy Savage's for pure effectiveness. And how 'bout those heel interviews? Looks like Barry's missed his calling up until now.....Can't quite understand the continued appearance of the Rougeaus' turn on the thumbs down portion of the ledger. Personally, I'm really beginning to dislike them--especially Jacques with his smartass smile and phony innocence. My hunch is that the "Barometer" votes are more directed at the angle's lack of clarity and the way in which it has been unnecessarily dragged out.....And the masses--small though they were--were really split down the middle as to the return of Bubba Rogers in his new WWF persona. I can't recall a clearer "split decision" in the "Barometer's" first full year. It'll be interesting to see if either side establishes dominance next month.

And speaking of next month, the deadline for July "Barometer" ballots is July 22. Now that the U.S. Postal Service has promised to accomodate in the future, let's get "Barometer" participation back to its recent record levels.

As always, entries and comments should be sent to:

JEFF SIEGEL

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AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

4 If the AWA was a car dealer, Ralph Nader and all sorts of consumer protection groups would be waiting on their doorstep with all sorts of complaints, lawsuits, and indictments. What they are up to now is what I consider the most unpardonable of all wrestling sins. They are advertising wrestlers to appear that they know far in advance will not be on the show.

This is nothing new for the AWA. When I was growing up here in the heart of the AWA territory, they would always have a problem with no shows. A lot of times they double booked their wrestlers knowing full well that one town wouldn't be getting the advertised card. Even when the WWF signed Hulk Hogan away back in December of 1983, the AWA continued to advertise him for upcoming cards, even though they knew he wouldn't be there. I thought this had all come to a halt, but it seems they're up to it again, now promoting the Rock and Roll Express (Robert Gibson is making dates, but not Ricky Morton), the Midnight Rockers (perhaps their new version, but they aren't clarifying that), the Nasty Boys (who were fired/quit by their own admission) as well as double booking others like Lawler and Hennig.

For some reason they don't realize that when they go to an arena show with certain wrestlers booked and then those wrestlers don't show, it makes the promotion look bad. Their favorite line in this area was always, "Once again, Bobby Heenan has chickened out..." That was of course meant to make Heenan look bad, but it reversed. Considering that, is it any wonder that they have trouble drawing people? Why go to a show if you know that half of the matches advertised probably won't take place.!!

Manny Fernandez came in on the last set of tapings, but he has not decided whether or not to stay. He wrestled as a heel.

I think that there's a jobber who won't be invited back by the AWA anytime in this millennium. He was billed as Crusher something or other from Siberia. He was going up against Rocky Mountain Oyster and if you want to get a good idea of what a bad match is, this is the one to watch. At one point, Crusher threw a dropkick that caught Oyster about groin high. Ouch. The match ended when the Russian decided to walk rather than do a job. Just walked right out. The ref and Oyster both looked stunned. The interesting part of the match (notable because otherwise you might be tempted to FF through it) was the one, da only, Da Crusher's son, Larry Lisowski was at ringside doing the color and he made some references about this guy working under his father's name.

The AWA went head to head with a WWF Madison Square Garden show this past Saturday night. A mini convention preceded the card which about 100 people attended. Believe it or not, Ricky and Robert both showed (the reason will be more than obvious as to why in just a minute) for the autograph session. There was a \$5.00 and autographs were \$3 each. For each item you had signed, no less. I should also mention that if you had both Ricky and Robert sign, it cost \$6 (\$3 each). The show was across the river from Manhattan somewhere in New Jersey (Asbury park I think).

Are you ready for the "new" Midnight Rockers? Ricky Rice and John Paul will comprise the team although as of right now, they have not been announced under that name..

Cousin Luke also made it to the last tapings. No doubt they will herald him as a former WWF great who came here for some real wrestling. Barf!

Derrick Dukes (called Darrell most of the time by the ever-competent announcers) was not on the last taping due to the number of "angles" and "new faces." He wants to make sure the fans remember him rather than him being just another face in the crowd.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

Several issues ago, I said that someday we would put together a WAPT letting you know what various wrestlers think about underground publications they affectionately call Kay Fabe sheets. This column is the result of about four different correspondents who have written in since that time.

TOMMY LANE-MIKE DAVIS (Rock & Roll RPM's)

Very nice to me, not so to other people. They said they didn't mind Kay Fabe sheets. They said they are underrated by them though. They had a great match against the Riches that night, and they might be right.

BUDDY LANDELL

A real Class guy. Nice to everyone. Says he loves the Kay Fabe Sheets and that he's no "head case" and that he's had his reasons for leaving some areas. He seemed to be very honest when he said that.

WENDELL COOLEY

A very soft spoken person whose only answer is "yes" or "no."

HECTOR GUERRERO

Hates the bulletins. He said the people who put them out don't know *&#(because they have never been in a ring.

JOHNNY AND DAVEY RICH

Didn't get to talk to them much but Davey talks a little more than Johnny.

JEFF JARRETT

Eats the Kay Fabe sheets alive. he loves them. Always wants to know what they say about him.

JIM CORNETTE

He's aware of their existence, but will not publicly acknowledge their existence. I caught him in an airport and congratulated him on his recent marriage and he said "Thanks," then did a double take and asked how I knew. When I said I read it in a bulletin, he suddenly ran out of time to talk.

BILL WATTS

Loves to know what smart fans are thinking. Loves to screw them up, but in a mischievous, playful way. His favorite section is the letters pages.

VINCE MCMAHON

Uses both the Observer and the Forum to work from, mainly keeping tabs on the competition. If smart fans really likes something he does, he looks very seriously at changing it because they usually react exactly opposite of marks.

VERNE GAGNE

Has mellowed a bit, but not much. Credits the bulletins with destroying wrestling and his promotion in particular.

BILL DUNDEE

You printed before that he doesn't like you guys much, but that's not completely true. He loves you guys when you say nice things about him, but when you criticize, he goes off the deep end. Privately, he pretty well agrees with everything you say and analyze (unless, of course, it's about him).

BOBBY HEENAN

Hates bulletins, but he reads them. Says they would make good toilet paper.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Goodbye Powers of Pain, Hello Dave Sheldon, er ah, I mean Russian Assassin.

We reported several issues ago that the Powers had been in contact with Titan (actually, it was Titan who approached them) but they had turned down the offer. Warlord wanted to go, but Barbarian had said that he didn't want the travel, plus he wanted to continue to work and improve in the nWA. A couple weeks ago, Titan supposedly came o them with a "final" offer. The stipulations were that they had to jump immediately. Titan wanted them right now because they had beat up the Road Warriors on National TV three times with no retaliation. The pOwers wanted to jump because jumping to the WWF was a lot less painful than jumping down from a scaffold, something they were going to have to do quite a few times over the next six weeks during the Bash tour.

I think the open letter to Jim Crockett will pretty well summerize the impact of the jump.

But now how^{is} this for brilliance on the part of Dusty. To replace these two, he brings in Angel of Death Dave Sheldon under a mask and calls him the Russian Assassin. Unless Dusty's been in a cave lately (and that might be his best excuse for being so stupid as of late), he should realize that we are now friends with the Russians after our president went over there. Gee, there^{is} even a movie out with Arnie Whats-his-nager with him as a babyface Russian cop! How about a Mob Hit Man for a new gimmick? Naw. Nobo^{dy} would believe that. Let's go with the big Russian. The only thing that's good out of this is that World Class doesn't have to use him anymore.

July 10 marks the pay per view event that everyone in wrestling is going to be very interested in. Vince will be interested because of if Crockett does well, it spells the end of his monopoly. From all indications, it should do well as it has already cleared 9.7 million homes (i.e. it is available in that many homes). They are counting on a 6% buy rate (six per cent of the available homes will buy the program). Let's do some arithmetic based on half that figure. Let's say they get a 3% buy rate. That means that 291,000 homes will pay at least \$13.95 (higher in most places, but that's what our cable company is charging so we^{ll} use that conservative figure). That comes to \$4,059,450 gross. Figuring half of that goes to the distribution companies, that still leaves a profit of over two million dollars. And that^{is} a conservative estimate.

The hype for the show is going well, and I'm not even being made nauseous by it yet. They did a good job of explaining the pay per view concept on a recent show. PPV will be blacked out in the Baltimore area to assure a good crowd. Ticket prices at the Baltimore Arena range from \$30 for the first few rows down to \$10. The fans in Baltimore should turn out and be very vocal. Gary Juster is the local promoter and he always tries to go the extra mile for fans there and they know it and usually show it. I'm excited about the show and will be watching it on pay per view. Naturally, phone calls with your opinions are welcome, bu those of our regular correspondents in that area can keep your pens in your pocket this time and just sit back and enjoy the show.

The only problem I have with the hype for the PPV so far is the commercial they show on TBS for it. It features Barbarian slamming a chair across Road Warrior Hawk's back. Bad timing.

Dusty is doing a commercial for Mellow Yellow, a soft drink that features pictures of NWA stars on the side of its cans. For some reason, he's holding the US belt in the commercial so this could be the NWA's equivalent of foreshadowing a title change a la Randy Savage's win at

Wrestlemania. This week, a second commercial appeared and it has Dusty's name imposed at the bottom and below that, "US Heavyweight Champion." Looks like we'll find out in about ten days or so.

The Turner buyout looks like it coming closer and closer. Last week, the two sides were light years apart in the negotiations, but this week, Turner's people are making some phone calls to various people around the wrestling business, soliciting opinions. I'm told that the sale is VERY close and we may in fact see it after the Bash tour is complete.

The angle with Kevin Sullivan and Precious continues as they keep adding just a little more to it each week. Actually, I think they're making it up as they go along. Let's see, what has happened...Jim Ross decided to be Barbara Walters and do an in depth interview with Precious. All went well at first with Jim asking if anything had ever happened between her and Kevin. She kept saying, "Not in my mind, no. Maybe in his, but not my mind." The interview went on, almost like both had forgotten their lines and Jim finally asked about the situation in Tallahassee where Sullivan carried her off. She flipped out and started beating on Jim's chest until Jimmy Garvin came out and took her away.

The next week, Sullivan came out with the letter that he was holding while in the cage at Clash II. He gave it to David Crockett (now how's that for safekeeping?) to hold, telling him that that proved that he was telling the truth. So far, from what we can put together is that Patty and Kevin were married at one time. They weren't of course, but I think that's where they are trying to lead us. It's an awful bumpy road to the end, though.

Looks like Kendall Windham might be getting a bit of a push. Hell's been in some tag team action and for once the announcers, who before ignored the fact that he and Barry are brothers, are now calling attention to it. They are saying that he is coming out of the shadows. I'm not sure where they are leading with this, but they did mention that Kendall was a former Florida champion.

That reminds me...remember when Mike Rotundo gave Rick Steiner the Florida Championship belt and Kevin Sullivan told him not to lose it? Well, I guess he lost it (as in misplaced it) because I've heard absolutely nothing of it since they said Kendall used to have it.

July 9 in Chicago will be the Bash that crowns a new set of six man tag team champions due to the departure of the Powers. I'm not sure if that is the entire line up for the night (that is, a one night tournament) or not, but I hope not. The idea of crowning six man tag champions won't draw on its own (the Crockett Cup with all its hype didn't draw that well) and the title is one of those that just doesn't mean all that much. I mean, how many established six man teams are there? Even if they let the Roadies win it back, they aren't a six man team and again, it won't mean anything. Despite what I said in an earlier paragraph, I'm not one that thinks that Warriors need a title. A title wouldn't hurt at this point, but normally, the Warriors are like Hogan. Both can draw on their names. Or at least the Warriors could. My best guess here is that they'll let the Roadies win the titles in their home town of Chicago. But I think there's an old saying about a lead balloon that would be appropriate here.

Some other interesting notes on the Bash...the Detroit stop (I think it's 7/31) will drag the original Sheik (Ed Farhat) out of retirement for a tag team match pairing him with Dusty against Kevin Sullivan and someone else (I've heard Murdoch, I've heard Bolo Brazil, I've heard Rick Steiner...take your pick). The Sheik is legendary in Detroit, but somehow I don't think he'll help sell all that many tickets. Farhat came out of retirement last year for a year or so ago down in Florida and he is still quite a brawler for someone that has to be in his 70's.

Crockett went head to head with Titan in Philadelphia on June 18 and managed to outdraw them. Crockett drew around 6000 fans and Titan got about 4200. This is the second or third head to head in Philadelphia, and the first time Crockett has come out on top, I believe. In the past, Crockett has always used the excuse that the Civic Center is in a much worse part of town than the Spectrum as the reason for not being able to outdraw Titan. Interesting now that Titan people are excusing themselves because of the Spectrum network, saying that the matches will be on TV so some fans will go to the NWA show, opting to tape the TV show. The bottom line on this whole situation is that Crockett made more money in Philly this past week than Titan did. They go head to head again in July and Crockett will have a Bash show and Titan is pulling out all its stops as well with the Powers taking on Demolition.

Old habits die hard and once again the NWA is back to starting main event matches on TV with only a few minutes left in the show. That doesn't stop them from doing seven minutes of introductions, you understand. It's back to the "make the people want to see more" theory that's so irritating to all fans.

There is some sort of a movie company trying to raise the capital to produce a film called "Death Match" (or something close to that). They want such stars as Ric Flair, Dusty, Sgt Slaughter and Roddy Piper to appear. Other names are mentioned as well, but plans are in the very very preliminary stages at this point.

Souix City, Iowa is going to be a stop on the Bash tour August 2. This may be the smallest city on the tour, but they are doing wide spread advertising, hoping to draw fans from all over the small towns of the Midwest. We'll try to keep you updated on the Bash tour and by all means, if you attend a Bash, let us know the results!

If you're that into the Bash, Sunday nights you will be able to listen in on the play by play by calling the 900 hot line. The rates are still \$1.50 for the first minute and 35¢ for each minute after.

WRESTLEMANIA DOWN UNDER

Here in Australia, they are hyping WMIV pretty big. We had the NBC Special on Wednesday night (June 8) at 11:30 pm (arrgh!). What a disappointment! Andre looked like he had an appointment with the Grim Reaper any moment. The "suplex" he executed was absolutely pathetic!! Technically, it was the worst match I've ever seen! Anyway, WMIV will be shown from 9:30pm - 1:30 am on Friday night, June 17, as well as the Main Event show will be repeated Wednesday June 15, Superstars on Thursday night and then Challenge Saturday at noon. Wrestling Overload at the moment. Most of the people I know who watch wrestling will tape the shows so the late times themselves aren't a real inconvenience, but it is to me because I want to keep a copy of WMIV and I want to cut out all the ads! Local newspaper TV guides carried 1/2 page stories on it; one was quite complimentary, one was insulting, one interesting point. They have only given four hours for the show. It supposedly went for 3 hours, 40 minutes, but now with the ads, they look like they've edited out quite a bit. Interestingly enough there's no mention in the news stories of the six man, two animal tag match, nor of the Hercules-Ultimate Dingbat match. They may have cut these matches out completely!???

-RAYMOND JENNINGS-

-Woody Point, Australia-

READER PLAYS BOOKER

The Third Fall in V3110 got me thinking. David Crockett could be put to better use than having him behind the microphone. Why not turn him into a heel manager? I'm convinced the little rodent would get over great as a heel because he's hated by all fans (smarts and marks) alike. His turn could start with him taking sides with the heels. He would be cheering them on during their matches and agreeing with everything they say in their interviews. While he's doing this, Tony Shiavone and Jim Ross would be constantly asking him why the sudden change in attitude. David would shrug them off and tell them he hasn't changed at all and that all this time he had been ignoring the talents and qualities of people like the Horsemen and Jim Cornette. Cornete starts to compliment David for his excellence in journalistic broadcasting (and that's when you know there's going to be a turn).

Then one day as David is announcing a match at ringside between the Road Warriors and the powers of Pain (pick whatever team hey feud them with next), he decides to interfere in the match on the heels' behalf and the Warriors chase him around the ring which causes them to be counted out. Jim Ross regards it as the most shocking incident in the history of wrestling (along with Barry's turn, Dusty's suspension and a billion other events that have earned that distinction) and he and Tony scratch their heads as to how their good friend David could do such a thing. Jim Crockett comes out and in a teary eyed interview tells the world that his family is in complete shock that little Davey could do such a thing. meanwhile the whole world wonders the same thing for a week.¶

The next week they build up the entire show for David's first interview since the terrible incident the week before. He finally comes out wearing sunglasses, a flowered shirt, shorts tennis shoes (with white sock stretched past his knees) and a tan so red you can see his nose peel. he would tell everyone that from now on, he is to be referred to as "Playboy" David Crockett and announces that he will be managing the new and improved tag team "The Panama Powers", Jesse and Vince. The Roadies won't stand a chance against them.

I'm convinced this turn would get over great because what better heel than an obnoxious one.

-LIRAN FRIEDMAN-

-Miami, FL-

GLOW/POWW

As you may remember, Dave Meltzer recently said he wasn't going to cover GLOW or POWW. Many of the readers wrote in asking him not to and he apparently decided after seeing POWW's Brandi Mae in action at an AWA card that the girls were just too incompetent to take seriously as wrestlers. Obviously, this is probably something I should take up with Dave and not you, but I notice that you aren't giving the girl's groups much in the way of coverage either. Yet, as somebody pointed out, because of their national TV exposure, a lot more people know who's wrestling in GLOW than in Central States or other more "legitimate" circuits. And if GLOW is a parody of "real" wrestling, then what is the WWF? For that matter, the stuff run on POWW is indistinguishable from an NWA show, except the stars are better looking though they can't wrestle as well. The angles are about the same. In fact, McLane's whole approach to POWW seems to be doing traditional wrestling shticks with pretty girls.

I'm not saying it's really very good or even all that interesting on a blow by blow, match by match basis. It just seems to me that GLOW and POWW are as much professional wrestling as the men's circuits and deserve some amount of coverage. Not with the leering "Oh Boy, girls!" attitude -- that can be saved for the video tapes they sell in the back of newsstand magazines -- but from a kind of business standpoint. Who the girls really are, who's coming in or going out, backstage squabbles, TV ratings, and business matters.

-DWIGHT DECKER-

-Northlake, IL-

EDITOR: I apologize for cutting your letter. I printed every word in the first two paragraphs, but just didn't have room for the rest of it. If there is an extra page (and at this point there is) left over, I will print the remainder. The rest of the letter basically covered some of the major angles that have been taking place. As for why I don't print stuff on the two groups, there are many reasons. The first is I'm not a big fan of women's wrestling whether it be POWW, GLOW, or Japanese Women. Secondly, just as I don't cover Japan, Central States, or many of the independent (including Continental up to this issue), I have no source for news. Don't send tapes, I barely have time to watch what I have now. Also, as far as I know, these two groups do not run regular shows like the other promotions; they just do TV tapings. I will also not be covering each and every episode of Learning the Ropes (although I will review it once it airs). I consider a promotion that only does TV basically a television series, not really wrestling. I would like to hear more input from readers on this subject though, and if enough want updates, I have no problem with that. Thanks for your thoughts.

TURNER BUYOUT

I'm not sure that Ted Turner buying the NWA would have solved any of its problems. Turner may be a genius at marketing, but so far, most of his ventures have lost money. I think the whole reason behind this is the fact that he knows very little about the ventures he gets himself into and as a result, he has to hire so called experts to run his businesses. They run their things their way and just make sure their weekly paycheck is secure. If Turner had bought the NWA, no doubt he would have used the Crockett family to advise him and the end result would have been about what we're seeing now...except that Jim Crockett would have had less to lose. Dusty would still be booker and his billfold would have been a little heavier, but the angles and talent would still be as stale as last week's bread.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

MEMPHIS

Six months later...the Renegades Rampage is history. Last issue we reported the thing had come down to six men, Tommy Rich, Max Paine, Bill Dundee, Jeff Jarrett, Gary Young and Scott Steiner. That was close. Actually they narrowed it down to six, then to four and then these four had a one night tournament to determine the winner of the "\$250,000" prize. The four it came down to were Jarrett, Steiner, Young and Robert Fuller. Now that makes sense doesn't it. Fuller's in town for only about a month and already he's got enough points to compete in the finals.

Originally, each wrestler in the circuit was to get a certain number of points for each win he got and the one with the most points after a certain amount of time was to be declared the winner. Now most of us realized that it would probably come down to a tie, but with the way it was done, I would imagine that the fans of the Memphis area feel sort of cheated. Anyway, here's how the final three matches went:

Robert Fuller beat Jeff Jarrett. Downtown Bruno got up on the apron and distracted Jeff while Fuller snuck up behind him and hit him with a foreign object and got the pin.

Scott Steiner beat Gary Young. Simply a whip into the turnbuckles followed in by a clothesline by Steiner for a clean win.

The final saw Steiner go against Fuller. Sylvia, Fuller's valet, created a distraction outside the ring by hitting Tojo Yamamoto with his kendo stick and the ref went out to break it up. Jeff Jarrett hit the ring and drop kicked Fuller from the top rope and Steiner went on to cover him for the win. So Scott Steiner wins the tournament.

elsewhere, the show is beginning to look like the Robert Fuller show. Everything seems to revolve around him. He came out for an interview with his whole stable. Jimmy Golden was in a baseball catcher's gear, Bruno with a batting helmet, and Sylvia and Gary Young just tagging along. Fuller starts making comments about how he could have been a major league pitcher since no one can hit his fastball. He proved it by having an impromptu baseball game with him throwing little league type pitches to Bruno who was swinging the bat like a rusty old lady. This all appeared to have no real meaning or continuity until later when Jeff Jarrett was wrestling. Fuller hit the ring with his baseball bat and they used it to "break" Jeff's arm.

With Bruno back, he's now calling himself "Superstar Bruno" and he's claiming there used to be some little short guy around who stole that gimmick from him. I guess this means that if Bill Dundee comes back, he'll be back as a babyface.

The Mid South Coliseum must be magic. Something about that place brings out the very best in wrestlers who work there. Witness the recent rematch with Lawler and Hennig. The show was quite a bit of the match on FNN and it was the classic Memphis brawl, through the crowd, in the ring, etc. The end saw the referee take a bump and Hennig covering Lawler for at least a 54 count. Robert Fuller came in a referee's shirt and counted Lawler down. Hennig and Fuller celebrated and when the referee came to, Fuller explained that he had counted the fall. The referee wouldn't buy that and as all this is happening, Jerry comes to and sneaks up behind Curt and cradles him as the real referee counts three. It's been done before, but definitely good stuff, Maynard.

Kerry Von Erich is due in town tonight (6/27) to go after Lawler's title. Kerry will play the subtle heel here, just as Lawler does when he goes to Texas. It's almost like the old roller derby where the visiting team played the heel.

CALGARY STAMPEDE

by Trent Walters

Before getting started, I have to apologize for the lack of news from here.

Actually, the biggest news is that Owen Hart defeated Hiroshi Hase for the International Grand Prix Jr. Heavyweight championship in Japan on May 27. This report is being written before June 26th, but Owen was due to drop the belt back to Hase on the last day of the series (the 26th). But, Hase apparently suffered an injury in a match with Keiichi Yamada so Owen can't drop the belt to him. Shiro Koshinaka seems like the logical substitution. Also, Owen has another Japan tour commencing mid August. Remember, Owen was going to start with Vince after the current tour.

Chris Benoit is supposed to be on the tour starting July 15, but I have not seen his name mentioned for two weeks now, so maybe it has been delayed or even cancelled.

John Smith is having awesome matches with Chris for the Mid Heavyweight belt. We're talking A- to A range. Smith should take the belt before Chris' Japan tour if he has not already. These matches are better than Savage-DiBiase.

Kerry Brown's turn has not gone over very well. In fact, he's being booed, or not cheered. He will now feud with Makhan Singh and Singh may be cheered because of his popular announcing. Jerry Lawler has offered Makhan a contract to come wrestle in the CWA in Memphis.

Brian Pillman should be back in July from his recent triceps injury. He has spent recent weeks with friends and family back in Ohio.

Angel of Death was due in, but opted for Crockett's Camp instead. Midgents are coming as are Japanese ladies Yumi Ogura and Mika Kamatsuru who are due in July 15.

Independent promoter Les Thornton had a card scheduled for June 11 in Calgary. No word on attendance or even who worked the card. Les should be running a fairly regular circuit this summer.

Attendance in Calgary is running about 500 per show. Edmonton's is slightly better, averaging about a hundred more for the most part.

Keith Hart continues to book along with Stu's helpful hand. But don't expect any juice for the next three months.

Another local promoter, Bob Bulat, ran a card in Gift Lake, Alberta (where?) on June 16 and drew about 100.

Since the news from here is sparse this time around, I'll finish out the report with Stampede Wrestlers Are People Too with John Smith and Chris Benoit.

Smith is extremely nice and quite open. He seems to enjoy talking smart. He's a very underrated worker. There is no relation between Davey Boy and John, but John's trained Dynamite Kid and Davey. They've been friends since they were young.

Chris Benoit, the hardest worker on the circuit and the (arguably) best. Quite soft spoken but always willing to talk. Having a good match means a lot to him and his ring work shows it.

Next issue, our WAPT will be on Makhan Singh and Jon Holiday.

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

We've covered Continental from time to time, but never on a regular basis; only when we've had someone write in or call in to let us know what's going on. Thanks to Financial News Network and Mike Gunter, we're in business with a regular report as I'm getting tapes from here. For those of you who would like to tune in, it is usually on Sunday nights, and I believe it's at 8 pm eastern, but check that before you set up the VCR then take my name in vain for missing it.

We'll start off by sort of introducing the promotion with some updates on the major feuds and faces around here. The first tape I got featured Missy Hyatt and new announcer Charlie Platt (who replaces Gordon Solie) giving viewers short clips of the major feuds (which makes writing this a lot easier). The only complaint that I had was that a lot of the clips they showed had no announcer (which means I had to pay closer attention).

Austin Idol is in as the lead babyface it looks like. Eddie Gilbert and Paul E Dangerously tried to recruit him, but all efforts failed. Paul offered him \$50,000 to join but Idol refused. Paul upped the offer to \$100,000. Idol said that he was capable of making up his own mind but in this case he was going to let someone else do it; the fans. They cheered Idol and he tore up the check that Paul had given him. Eddie hit the ring and Idol took care of him with one punch (it must have been a doozie, coz up busted Eddie open and left him punch drunk to the point of not being able to stand up). Idol then went on to destroy a jobber. Dangerously and Gilbert then doubled up on him with Eddie hrowing powder in his face and Paul hitting him with the phone. With Idol knocked out, they tied him in a chair and started to cut his hair. Eddie got just a snip off the back before Mr. Olympia charged the ring to make the save.

With Gilbert as the booker, he's also using some old angles from the UWF with different people. For instance, remember the tag tournament for the vacant UWF titles? The one where Iceman wanted a win counted when he teamed with Chris Adams against another babyface tag team? Same thing here. The nightmares were going against the Southern Boys and one of the SB's got hurt. Ken Wayne wanted to take the win, but Danny Davis refused. Later, they defended their titles against the Drill Instructor Bob Carter (more on this guy later) and Detroit Demolition (Randy Cully, Moondog Spot). Every time Davis went for a tag, Wayne walked away. Finally, Davis was in the corner arguing with Wayne and he quickly double punched, first his opponent, and then Wayne. Wayne came in and they tripled on Davis and left him for dead. I already know where this one is going, but we'll save it for next time. Even though it's been done a lot, it was good.

Pez Whatley is in as a babyface telling people his face might look familiar, but he's now Willie B. Hurt. He's involved himself in the Drill Instructor angle. The DI is a Sgt Slaughter clone and calls himself Bob Carter (remember Sgt Carter from Gomer Pyle?). He has a recruit named Private Mark Pyle (like Slaughter had Pvt. Nelson). Pez beat Pyle in a TV match and Carter hit the ring to yell at him and tell him HE could have beat Pez in 20 seconds. Pez jumps back in the ring, dropkicks Carter from behind, he collides with Pyle and Pez cradles Carter while the ref counts three.

One thing that surprised me about the promotion is the number of shows they have booked. They may be small towns, but they're all in Alabama or Mississippi and it makes the AWA schedule look like a part time promotion (I guess it really is). This promotion is a lot of fun, and I look forward to the tapes and to keeping you up to date on it.

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THE PHANTOM OF THE RING

RANDOM THOUGHTS - I have been reading with great amusement these past weeks about the evolution of the feud with the National Enquirer, of all things, over the supposed slight to the intelligence of wrestling fans. To quote the pertinent section of the now-famous letter, "It was an attempt to give our readers what they want. Most readers are demographically in the lower IQ level, approximately the same genre of wrestling fans in general". Now the smart fans have taken it as their duty to refute this malicious piece of writing by trashing the Enquirer in both letter and spirit. What I particularly love is the delicious irony of it all: smart fans have always been referring to the "marks" as just one short evolutionary step above the ape. Everytime a smart fan mentions a "mark" it is always done so in disparaging terms. Now they are steamed at this pulp publication for printing what smart fans themselves believe the "mark" to be. So why are they mad at the Enquirer? Simple: because the Enquirer believes this of wrestling fans in general. In other words, they are lumping the smart fan in with the lowly "mark". That is really what smarts are mad about. It would seem that the Enquirer, like wrestling promoters, knows its audience; after all both audiences eagerly sop up whatever drivel is presented to them, or do they? I find that most Enquirer readers, like most so-called marks, take the drivel with a grain of salt; at least the ones I have spoken to. And to take either seriously is truly the kiss of death.

Have you noticed that when Dave Meltzer has a slow news week, his writing shows marked improvement? He can't be as lazy when there is not a great deal of news to hide behind and his true creative self comes out. His best Observer issues are those written during those slow weeks.

There's good news and bad news concerning the Wrestling Eye: the good news is that it is still publishing. The bad news is that it is still publishing.

I must issue an apology of omission about my recent article on wrestling blacklists: I forgot to mention that in the Gordienko case, it was at the height of the McCarthy era and the NWA itself was facing a possible anti-trust suit. So, to allow Gordienko in (vouch for him) would have been to ask for government interference. (Remember, anti-trust suits are usually political in nature.) Full credit for the discovery of my sin goes to Tom Burke, who, as usual lets nothing go by his sharp eyes.

I have not yet seen Brother Love, but knowing McMahon, I trust he will meet my expectations of him and strike a heavy blow for low intelligence and bad taste. Actually, I'm somewhat surprised that Vince is so late with this character, considering how much time has elapsed since Jim and Tammy and even Jimmy. Also, the Memphis group beat him out of the gimmick. But Vince probably took in the fact that many people in Memphis were truly disgusted and shocked by the angle and then decided to use it. In a sense, Vince is too early with this character: with the way things are currently going for him in New York, the Rev. Al Sharpton would be perfect for the Brother Love role, and he could very well be available. This man was made for professional wrestling, though he probably thinks himself too good for it. Sounds just like Vince.

A personal note...I'd love to see an article from Bill Kunkel (notorious letter writer) on the radio show he used to do with Arnie Katz. I think it would make facinating reading. I used to listen religiously (no pun intended on the previous paragraph). There was nothing like it and still isn't.

AN OPEN LETTER TO JIM CROCKETT JR.

Dear Mr. Crockett;

I know you read the Forum and that sometimes you even quote from its pages. I am flattered that you consider our opinions worth your time that you spend reading. I hope that you carefully read this letter and realize that it is not intended to rub salt into a wound, but to help you put your promotion into a viable contender for Mr. McMahon's top spot in the world of wrestling.

When you lost the Powers of Pain, it was no big deal. They were improving as workers and were imposing figures. They might have had a future in the promotion, but that was all in future tense. Losing the Barbarian and the Warlord will not hurt your promotion itself.

What will be hurt is the reputation of the Road Warriors. Not once, twice, but three times, the powers were allowed to destroy the Warriors on national TV. The first was the angle to set up the feud with the bench press contest. The second was at the Clash (granted the Roadies got a pinfall victory, but the Powers were allowed to destroy them after the match - here in Illinois, it doesn't matter who has the best form during a fight; what matters is who walks away in the end), and the third had Hawk being injured on the syndicated show. This feud from the beginning had little drawing power and the continued destruction of the Warriors was an attempt to heat up the feud so that it could become profitable at the box office. But running a feud more than six months when it can clearly be seen as a box office bomb is just plain bad business. The fact that the Warriors never got a chance to retaliate on TV will leave your paying fans, the marks, the ones who you cater to, looking at the Warriors in a completely different light. Bringing in a Russian mercenary and having them destroy him is not going to replace them killing the Powers. Even having the Warriors come out on TV and tell how scared the Powers were to face them in scaffold matches won't help; the fans are going to be thinking about how they never actually saw the Warriors get their revenge. Now, to get the Warriors over, you're going to have to almost start from scratch; how much money is that going to cost you?

The whole situation was not worth salvaging; the Powers of Pain were expendable. Dragging the feud out so long is a business decision that will cost you in the long run. Who's fault is that? My guess would be the booker. No doubt it was his decision to drag things out instead of letting the Warriors get their revenge and then going after some titles or getting them involved in another feud.

There's a joke among smart fans that goes something like this: "Who is Vince McMahon's best Booker?" Answer: Dusty Rhodes. You have to wonder if it's really a joke anymore.

Thanks for your time.



Jon Gallagher
Editor - Wrestling forum

CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH
June 1988

This award is not always given out for some magnanimous gesture; sometimes we give it just to someone because they did something nice. That's the case this month as we present the Class Act for June to one Kevin Von Erich.

You can say all you want about the out of the ring lifestyles of the whole Von Erich clan. Occasionally they do something that merits recognition and this is the case here. A little boy in Texas was in need of a lung-heart transplant. A benefit was set up for him with wrestling being the providers. Jessica McClure, the little girl who fellin and was trapped in a well some months back was set to wrestle Kevin Von Erich for charity. Early reports made us shudder.

Kevin was quoted in newspapers saying that he wouldn't hurt the little girl, that they would just kind of tumble around the ring for a while. That had me worried. Even with Kelly, my own daughter, knowing as much about the workings of the sport itself as she does (and she CAN execute a better suplex than Andre) I doubt that I would have let her do something like this, especially given the fact that I am aware of the Von Erich's reputations. Besides, can you imagine Kevin doing a job for a little girl?

The match went just a few seconds. Jessica went up to Kevin and kissed him on the cheek and Kevin keeled over, out for the count. I think this was a nice gesture on Kevin's part, and as a matter of fact, on behalf of the entire World Class organization. A tip of our hat to all those involved.

DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH
June 1988

I really hate to make this whole issue a "pick on Jim/Dusty" issue, but my gosh...is there really another logical choice for dipstick of the month?

I know there isn't a better one.

I think that the reasons for handing this combo the less than prestigious award is well chronicalled in both the NWA section and the Open letter on the previous page. The award should be given to Dusty with only a minor afterthought to Mr. Crockett. Mr. Crockett gets a partial share because, after all, he is the one who lets Dusty do all these stupid things.

Runners up this time are slim pickin's. I would be remiss if I missed mentioning the US Postal service. Not only did they lose the barometer two issues ago, our Portland report is probably somewhere between here and the Canary Islands by now (today is the 29th). Add that to the fact that a number of readers only received the cover page from last issue and we can sure see why they raised our rates. It costs a lot of money to reroute mail across the country two or three times.

Verne and company must be mentioned as well for charging an arm and a leg for autographs. We can understand a \$3.00 charge, but three bucks per item?!?! There were no exceptions made either.

And finally, Vince McMahon. Can you imagine having your entire body tatooed, only to find out that you'll be the best tatooed jobber in the world (oops, you haven't read the WWF report yet...I'll leave it at that). I imagine Vince would be Sivi Afi's top choice for this month.

GLOBAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

by JEFF BOWDREN

Another set of TV tapings took place for the GWA on 6/18/88 in Pmpano Beach, Florida. Lots of angles as usual, bu the biggest story to come out of the tapings wasn't an angle.

During a match for the vacated junior heavyweight title (Steve Collins "retired" the belt so that he could become Global's heavyweight title holder) Joe Malenko was wrestling Scotty Williams. Joe had been whipped into the corner by Scotty. As Scotty went in for the follow up, Joe moved and Scotty went in too high. he hit the metal band that connects the buckle with the post face first. Joe, not seeing what had happend, caught Scotty in the northern Lights suplex and got the pin. Scotty rolled out of the ring right in front of me and his face was a mess, with blood just pouring out. At first, I thought that Scotty had forgotten to duck his head during the suplex and that it had smashed his nose in the mat, but that wasn't the case. Scotty then walked over by the announcer's table and collapsed unconscious. It was a couple of moments before Bob Roop and the rest of the staff from the GWA realized that Scotty was reall hurt and the place became a madhouse. Paramedics were called in and the whole sha-bang. Early reports that Scotty had a broken nose and concussion. Let's wish Scotty all the best and a speedy return to the ring. One final thing that I might add...some of you might remember Joe Malenko was one of the wrestlers who competed in the legendary UWF in Japan. Please let me emphasize that in NO WAY was this incident a "shoot" or anything like that. I can just hear the rumors circulating now that Joe beat the guy up or something. It was just one of those things that occasionally happen. The unfortunate thing about the ending of their match was that Joe and Scotty were involved in a very good match. They were both wrestling UWF "hard style" and the crowd was really into it. It was like being in the audience at a college meet, as the people were really getting into the give and take. One moron early in the match started going "BO-RING" and a bunch of people turned around and told him to shut up. Maybe here's hope for American wrestling fans after all.

Other news coming out of the tapings were as previous mentioned that Steve Collins is now recognized as the GWA Heavyweight champ. He had a match at the last tapings with Lord Henry Norman (who by the way was very well received in a recent appearance for the UWF in Japan) with the stipulations being that if Collins won, he would win Norman's TV title and thereby be the holder of both the TV title and the heavyweight title. If Collins lost, Norman could take one of the party girls. Well, Death Row kidnapped one of the girls during the match and when Collins gave chase, he was counted out. Norman then picked the party girl Dominique (who by the way is a sister of Soul Patrol member TJ Jackson) who after some early "hesitation", has now become a member of Reverend James Johnson's group of Death Row and Lord Norman. Still no sign at this taping of super valet Ann Marie, who is currently on tour as a "foxy-boxer." If you don't know what that is, it's because you don't live in a community with a high sleeze factor like Fort Lauderdale. By the way, Ann Marie will be featured in the August edition (I think) of Penthouse magazine. Hey, let's get to those newsstands early!

EDITOR'S NOTE: In defense of Jeff, The typos in this report are mine. Jeff phones in his report, I tape record it then transcribe it. So blame the mistakes on me, not him. Sometimes I just try to type too fast and skfhowlfjp happens.

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Editor's note: Here is the remainder of Dwight Decker's letter from the letter's page.

The situation that's been unfolding on GLOW over the last year has been particularly fascinating. As you know, after putting a second season of GLOW in the can, David McLane split with half the girls and started a new promotion called POWW. As I understand it, McLane didn't like the excessive emphasis on hokey-jokey comedy in GLOW and wanted to begin a self-sustaining wrestling organization along more traditional lines. So for the past year, second season GLOW and first-season POWW segments have been running concurrently, with McLane and many of the same girls prominently in both of them. "Marks" of my acquaintance have reported being badly confused because the same girls have different names in the two promotions (for example, Matilda the Hun in GLOW became Queen Kong in POWW). Moreover, it's obvious that the second-season GLOW segments have been heavily edited to downplay McLane's role. McLane is still seen doing play-by-play over at his table, but his commentary was excised and other people were brought in to do it later. The GLOW magazine has been particularly hard-hit because half the stars familiar to the readers aren't there any more, and the marks keep asking for pictures of them because there isn't any acknowledgement of the drastic changes going on. A third season is being prepared using the few of the original girls left and adding in a bunch of new ones, and they're showing up in introductory segments on the second-season segments and in the magazine--probably much to the further confusion of the marks, as the new girls are being introduced but nothing has been done with them.

Then the last of the second-season GLOW segments aired recently. At the end, Colonel Ninotchka won the GLOW crown, then the girls de-pantsed David McLane (and he found to be wearing women's underwear), and the segment was concluded by announcing that David McLane had absconded with the GLOW treasury and his blushing bride, Matilda the Hun. What a nasty farewell gibe at the mutinous traitor! That seems to set the stage for third-season GLOW, since judging from the magazine, Colonel Ninotchka is still there.

But in a weird bit of angle continuity, the first of the first-season POWW segments opened a year ago with its Russian heel already in possession of the POWW crown. Tina Ferrari, known as Nina here, won it eventually, but it seems that McLane went from GLOW to POWW with the idea that despite the change of name and venue, the storyline was the same and he just picked up where he had left off, in effect making POWW the theoretical equivalent of what third-season GLOW would have been if he had stayed even though second-season GLOW had yet to be shown on TV.

Okay, so GLOW had terrible wrestling and it was mainly just an excuse to have pretty girls in skimpy outfits rolling around on the mat with each other. But I found it likeable. The girls and their characters were appealing, and the low comedy was often too dumb to hate very much. I'd love a crack at writing a GLOW comic book, with the emphasis on comedy and adventure, using the characters. I think Colonel Ninotchka had the best Russian accent of any Russian character in wrestling, male or female. In fact, I saw her in a couple of brawls with the better GLOW wrestlers that were as intense and even credible as anything you see on a "real" wrestling show. And Tina Ferrari was charming and downright charismatic, a good choice for a champion. I could enjoy GLOW because of its humor; I can't take too much of POWW because of its low-rent look, bad lighting, and the seriousness with which it takes itself--GLOW could use its humor to mask the bad wrestling, but POWW can't.

So....if you come across any news about what's going on in those two promotions, let's hear about it. You don't have to cover them with the same minute detail you do the NWA or the WWF, but still... GLOW and POWW are on TV, and more people probably know who Colonel Ninotchka and Nina are than Jerry Lawler. They're part of the wrestling world, too.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Seems to be a lot to cover here including a new set of TV tapings which crowned a new king, new babyface tag team, neck braces, plus other gossip straight from the locker rooms (oh how our Stamford readers are going to love this report).

Dan Reilly attended the latest set of TV tapings in Glen Falls, NY and that alone should merit some kind of special award. He had to sit through 29 matches total in a building that started off at 85 degrees and ended up at 105. The show opened with the crowning of a new king to replace Harley Race. All the heels gathered in the ring and Heenan made a speech about how Race was laying in a hospital bed and that Hogan (who is being blamed for Race's medical problems) showed no remorse. The new king is Islander Haku, which I guess is one step above High Chief Afi. I'll bet he (Afi) is one guy who hopes the Islander thing isn't history after getting all those tattoos.

The first match of the card was Demolition taking on the newest additions to the WWF, The Powers of Pain. The Powers were accompanied to the ring by no less than Tito Santana. The story I'm sure they'll be using revolves around Demolition injuring Rick Martel and putting him out of wrestling. Tito will then have gone out and found a team that can get revenge. How will the fans and newsstand magazines handle this with the powers playing babyface? Well, the Powers beat up the real road Warriors, so should they have any problem with imitation ones? One thing Vince could do here is have Demolition destroy Powers thus putting more credibility in Demo with marks saying, "Gee...maybe Demo IS better than the Warriors!" Later in the show, the Powers came out with out Tito so he won't be managing them full time, just introducing them. Powers are already scheduled in matches against Demolition across the country.

A big angle that was shot involved Randy Savage and Ted DiBiase. To keep heat on the feud (the third in their series of matches have already hit in most cities) they had Ted attack Randy during a Craig DeGeorge interview spot. Virgil held Liz while Ted destroyed Randy with Andre helping. This is leading up to the Pay Per View event from Madison Square Garden on August 28 where Andre and Ted will be taking on Savage and a (as of now) mystery partner. Randy is wearing a neck brace as a result of the attack.

Speaking of the PPV event, Hulk Hogan is the mystery partner and special referee for the match with Jesse Ventura.

The air dates for the recent tapings in Glen Falls will be 7/9, 7/16, and 7/23.

One of the matches that these poor people had to sit through (I think - HOPE - it was a dark match) was Ron Bass and Dino Bravo vs Ken Patera and Junkyard Dog. Shudder! It went 6:43 and in a building that was over a hundred degrees, that had to seem like a lifetime. JYD had words with a group of ringsiders who wanted to let him know how bad he was. They told him he was the world's worst wrestler and he replied, "Just like your mama!" Personally, I think my 64 year old mother is better than him. I know the Fabulous Moolah is and she's older than that.

Some interesting names that weren't at the taping were Bam Bam Bigelow, One Man Gang, Koko B Ware,, Hercules (who should have been since he's part of the Heenan family) and the Stallions, Jobbers Barry Horowitz and Brady Boone were also absent.

At a recent show in Chicago, there was a little problem backstage that had wrestlers talking for a few days. Chet Koppick, a local radio sports guy does their ring announcing when they come to town. Chet used to give publicity to all the groups, but in recent months won't give anyone but the WWF the time of day. Well anyway, Chet was in the

dressing room and Brutus Beefcake decided to play a practical joke. All he did was throw Jimmy Hart's Peggy Sue wig at Chet but that was all it took to set him off. He went into a tirade about how he was personally responsible for half of the people sitting out there and that he was a big name star who should be treated with according respect. He also threatened to walk. I'm told there were about three or four guys who were in serious danger of losing it and falling on the floor laughing. I'm also told that most of the guys didn't care one way or another whether he stayed or left.

More dressing room scuttlebutt...Vince is once again cutting expenses. Some guys are upset and reportedly haven't even been paid for their part in Wrestlemania IV yet. The thing that's being cut is travel expenses. Most of the guys fly everywhere they go. Not any more. If the next town is within a certain driving distance (I think it's a six hour limit...maybe five) they are required to drive. Titan will no longer pay for the plane if they choose to go that route. There have been some other disputes about money and one thing that a wrestler complained to me about is that Vince seems to be willing to go after new talent and offer them big bucks but he's not willing to take care of the guys who's been with him for a long time. Anytime you put a bunch of stars together, there's going to be a pecking order and some aren't going to like that order. As long as the money's been good, there's been a lot of complaining but no one doing anything about it. If they start cutting back on benefits, there will be a lot of dissension among the ranks that could hurt eventually.

I guess the original senario of Savage dropping the belt to DiBiase and then Ted dropping it back to Hogan is on hold for at least a while. Frankly, I don't expect that senario to be used, even in the future. With Savage's drawing power, I think they will continue to keep the belt with him, even after Hogan finishes his movie. So who will Savage drop the belt to? Probably whoever he's feuding with whenever he stops drawing. It's just a matter of time then before Hogan regains the strap.

Let's look at just how hot Mr. Savage has become. This past Saturday night at Madison Square Garden, he defended the belt against Ted in a cage. Sean Grande reports that the heat was at the level (and sometimes exceeding) what Hogan gets for intro's. The difference was that the heat was not only sustained throughout the match, but the crowd went wild whenever either man came close to escaping from the cage. When Savage finally won it, the roar was deafening. The end came when Savage and DiBiase were both fighting at the top of the cage and Virgil scaled the cage to help Ted. It got screwed up a little when a teenager also scaled the cage and while holding on with one hand, started shaling away on Virgil with the other. The cage top attracted quite a crowd as police then climbed up as well to get the kid. Savage had to wait till they got him down before he crashed the heels' heads together, then went over the top for the win.

Hulk Hogan himself was in the dressing room before the matches and several fans who knew that swore that he'd come out to either rescue Savage and Liz at the appropriate time or console Randy after he dropped the title but neither happened.

Sean also reports the popularity of Jim Duggan. It seems before the matches begin, someone will shout "Hi-yooooooo" and it breaks loose from there. When Duggan comes out, the place is wild with that stupid yell. Even on the way home, people are hanging out of cars yelling, "Hi-yooooooo!" It's almost like these people are communicating in some strange language. Blocks away from MSG it's like that! Is it like this all over the country? It doesn't happen in Peoria...only when Duggan comes to the ring.

I've not had the chance yet to see this Brother love character, but several readers have. It's Bruce Pritchard, former announcer, doing the role and from all accounts I heard...it stinks, big time. I've been told that they have several plans for him, but for right now, the only thing he's going to be doing is a "Quiet time" type segment like Brother Ernest did down in Memphis. I am anxious to see it, but for some reason, I just keep missing it.

How about this...for once the readers disagree with the editor! I've not commented on the Rougeau Brothers (make that FABulous Rougeau Brothers) turn previously. I really like it. They've got this air about them that says, "We're better than you, but we're trying not to show it" and it's coming across as very obnoxious. They are dragging the thing out, but at least everyone seems to be having fun doing it. I was on the floor during the Craig DeGeorge segment where they kept correcting each other in injecting "FABulous" in front of everything each other said. And I completely missed the "Lincoln Monument" and "Washington Memorial" until Vince brought it to our attentions. I can hardly wait until they complete the turn.

Have you seen those commercials during broadcast about milk? They have a little kid talking to a bigger kid and the little one is drinking milk. Right before our eyes, the kid grows up (showing us what he'll look like because he drank milk). Well with that in mind, now you know what I think of Shawn Mooney. He's Craig DeGeorge after Craig drank a bunch of milk.

Speaking of Shawn, he replaces Mean Gene Okerlund who, depending on who you believe, was fired/quilt. My Titan source gave no reasoning behind a firing other than the standard "differences in philosophy" line. Gene is back home in Minnesota relaxing and fishing with friends. He is going to be auditioning for a spot as a game show host (should be a natural after four years with Titan) according to associates.

George Steele has a new friend...it's a stuffed something-or-other that's a little hard to describe. If you saw the movie "Gremlins" it looks a little like the title character Gizmo with a bald head. George carries it to the ring with him and hangs it on the ringpost. He then goes back to check on its well being throughout the match. Somehow, I see the thing eventually getting a pinfall victory on someone, more than likely a jobber. The name of the thing is "Mine."

On a local note, July 12, Titan will invade Davenport Iowa with an A team show, the first Davenport has seen of the A team ever. Savage and DiBiase are on the card and already they have an advance of over 4000. The arena only holds 5100 and they always hold a few seats for the door. Very few (if any) comp tickets are being given out to radio stations for his one. They get the A team as a couple of nights later down the road in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, they will be taping the Challenge show. La Cross WI will host the Superstars next.

Joe LeDuc made his appearance at the Springfield taping before Wrestlemania but we haven't heard a thing from him since. Well, he's popped up again on the Glen Falls taping and he's being called the Headbanger. Wonder who they'll feud him with?

Terry Taylor hasn't made it in yet, but he's being announced for return cards at arenas this month, so probably he'll be in for the tapings from LaCross and Cedar Rapids. Looks to be a bayface as he's wrestling Iron Mike Sharpe for his debuts at live shows. Wouldn't he have made a good king?

I guess Haku has some experience. Remember, he used to be billed as King Tonga.

WORLD CLASS

Thanks to the US Postal Dis Service and me having to work overtime (till 3am every night this week), the Portland report is going to take a short vacation and be filled in with the World Class report. This should be fun making it stretch...

First off, there is a new tag team known as the Samoan Swat Team on the scene. They consist of Samula, who you may remember as the third Samoan in the WWF and Fatu who is the Tonga Kid's (Toma) twin brother. Reports are that they are very stiff and they work a very tight match. So tight, in fact that there is some concern that they are going to hurt someone. Their finishing maneuver is a belly to back suplex off the top rope with the other Samoan flying from another top turnbuckle with a body press. It sounds impressive and from all reports, is.

Also in is Kamala who is being managed by Skandar Akbar. He took on Kerry at the recent TV taping and got a win. Kerry put his foot on the ropes after a splash, but Akbar pushed it off and the ref counted three.

Michael Hayes has been replaced as the booker here by Eric Embry. It was not a firing as many fans have speculated, rather a case of Michael going to owner Ken Mantell and saying that he didn't know what he was doing wrong, but the attendance just wasn't up. Michael will continue to have plenty of input as to what is going on, but the main thrust of the angles may soon be changing.

The one thing that is not changing is the confusing angle surrounding Hayes and Gordy. We all expected them to get back together, but the Freebird is still a three way split with none of them teaming with one another.

Gordy continues to take the Simpsons under his wing and protect them as a couple of incidents have shown. He was a luberjack in a match with Shawn and Jack Victory.

Victory kept getting thrown out of the ring and Gordy kept tossing him back in. John

John

Tatum came out to get a four way going and it ended up with Gordy knocking down Victory and throwing Shawn on top for the pin.

Later on the show, Gordy was to take on Tatum, but the match never got under way as Victory and Buddy Roberts came out and tripled on Gordy until Shawn and Michael Hayes made the save. After they cleared the ring, Hayes grabbed the house mike and told Gordy, "We're even," then left the ring.

Buddy Roberts is now doing a Pit type interview segment called Buddy's Bar Stool. At this taping, he interviewed Shawn and he kept insulting his brother Steve until Shawn finally had had enough and he punched Buddy off the stool.

Jerry Lawler has made a couple of title defenses in the area, defeating Terry Taylor and Iceman Parsons. Against Parsons, they did a false finish with Lawler's foot on the ropes and Akbar knocking it off. Another ref came out to explain what had happened to the original ref and the match was ordered restarted. Naturally, Iceman was celebrating his victory when Jerry snuck up from behind and rolled him up for the win.

In Mesquite, Gordy wrestled Kerry. At the 18:00 mark, Gordy hit Kerry with the spike and Akbar and company came out and attacked them both. Kevin and Hayes came out to make the save. The ref had called for the bell, but Kerry said that he wanted to wrestle the last 15 minutes of the time limit (yes, in WCCW, $18 + 15 = 60$) with both Kevin and Michael staying at ringside to prevent interference. The rest of the match featured the claw vs the spike and ended with a draw. Everyone shook hands at the end except Gordy-Kevin & Gordy-Hayes. Gordy even raised Kerry's hand at the end.

A special thank you to Ron Lemeiux who took time away from his vacation and family to send along a couple of very detailed reports. Without his help, this issue would have been a couple of pages short.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

6-11 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of Fred Naarisma...Brad Armstrong pinned Bounty Hunter...Ivan Koloff over Larry Winters...Perex downed Mark Flemming...Pain beat Wilbur/Ron Garvin...Rotundo drew Doc...Sting/Nikita beat Tully/Arn by DQ...Luger/Rhodes went DCOR Flair/Windham...NOTES: Attendance 4000...no shows included Ricky Santana (quit) Terminator (ditto) and Kendall Windham...Doc entered to "Born in USA", ironic because that was Rotundo (and Windham's) theme in WWF...regular ring announcer gone, and sub called Arn "Arnie."

6-12 SPRINGFIELD, MA (WWF) - courtesy of Ron Lemieux, Dan Reilly, and Ted Brutomesso (grades are Dan's and Ted's respectively)...SD Jones pinned Conquistador Estrada (C/C)...Horowitz beat Allen (B/C+)...Animal over Valentine by COR (D/Z)...OMG over Animal by DQ (D/Z)...Bulldogs beat Islanders (A/A-)...Davis pinned Houston (D/Z)...Duggan/Jake beat Andre/Rude (B/B-)...NOTES: Attendance 2500...Bigelow no showed and they started to give forfeit win to Gang, but Steele (who was still in the ring from his match) attacked Gang and they called it an "official" match...it went 2:00...Bulldogs win clean with pinfall over Afi...Dynamite looks good, afi didn't work

6-19 MESQUITE, TX (WCCW) - courtesy of a vacationing Ron Lemieux...Missing link beat Vince Apollo...Buddy Roberts drew Shawn Simpson...Samoan Swat Team over Jeff Raitz/Jason Sterling...Eric Embry defeated Skip Young...Michael Hayes beat Kamala via DQ...Jerry Lawler beat Iceman...Hayes, Simpson, Samoan won Dome of Terror...GordyGordy drew Kerry...Kevin beat Terry Taylor...NOTES: Attendance 3100...when the cameras aren't rolling, these guys don't work for the most part...most angles and stuff covered in World Class report.

6-20 SYRACUSE (WWF) - courtesy of Maurice Forrester...Danny Davis over Lanny Poffo...Sherri beat Robin...Rogeauss pinned Bees...Savage...Savage beat DiBiase...Powers won by COR over Demolition...Bald News beat Bret...Jake and Rude went DDQ....NOTES...Fans thought Powers were Road Warriors and got over big...Tito introduced them...Originally it was to have been Demo vs Strike Force, then changed to Tito and Muraco and this was the end result...Savage over big here and had best match of the night.

6-21 BIRMINGHAM (NWA) - courtesy of Gina Holt...Stallion pinned Simmons (C)...Steiner over Kendall (C+)...Rotundo drew Armstrong (B)...Ivan Koloff beat Horner (D)...Doc pinned Arn (B+)...Road Warriors beat Shepherders (B)...Sting/Lex/Nikita over Barry/Tully/Flair (A-)...NOTES: Attendance 1701...no blood on card...Sting pinned Tully in six man...arena holds 15000 so NWA was disappointed by first card here in 2 years.

6-24 PROVIDENCE, RI (WWF) - courtesy of Anthony Parillo...Bossman beat Casey...Rogeaous over Conquistadors...OMG beat Pete Doherty...Animal with a COR victory over Valentine...Warrior beat Heenan...Muraco destroyed Davis...Bad News pinned jim Neidhart...Jake/Duggan over ANDRE?Rude...NOTES: Attendance 3000...Warrior put sleeper on Heenan then stuffed him in the weasel suit....Bigelow a no show again, replaced by Doherty...Duggan hit Rude with 2 x 4 and Jake covered him for the pin.

6-25 JERSEY CITY, NJ (AWA) - courtesy of Mike Salardino...Damien Kane beat Ray oddesy (bad)...Cheetah Kid pinned Cactus Jack (okay)...Medussa beat Heidi Lee Morgan (okay)...Wahoo DCOR Fernandez...Lawler pinned Hennig (good)....Rock and Roll Express DCOR Badd Company...NOTES: Attendance 300...Wahoo and Manny brawled all hte way back to the dressing room

6-25 NEW YORK (WWF) - by Sean Grande...Bossman beat Casey (C+)...Rogeaous beat Conquistadors (B-)...Animal by COR over Valentine (C-)...Muraco by DQ over Davis (C-)...Duggan pinned OMG (B-)...Andre pinned Bigelow (D)...Warrior over Heenan (D+)...Bad News by COR on Neidhart (C-)...Savage beat DiBiase (B for match, A for the cage work)...NOTES: Atendence 18000...Bossman handcuffed Casey, bu walked away...Rougeaous were complete faces in this match...Duggan-Gang not uWF quality, but still good...Carl Weathers (Apollo Creed) was in audience and had words with Bad News...someone forgot to tell security and they dragged Weathers off.

6-26 DETROIT (WWF) - courtesy of Beth Sackett...Rogeaous beat Conquistadors...Muraco over Davis..JYD pinned bass...HTM beat Beefy...Tito pinned Sivi Afi....Haku downed Casey...Jake/Duggan over Rude/Andre...NOTES: Attendance 5000....last card at Silverdome...nexttime they move to new home of the Pistons.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

*Taking care of last issue's trivia question, we wanted to know "who wrestled Rick McGraw at the last Shea Stadium card and what was the result?" The answer(s): Greg Gagne went to a draw with the late star. This issue, we get simple. Name the two wrestlers that Muhammed Ali has stepped in the ring with. Answer next time. And as always, our disclaimer saying that there is no prizes for correct answers... this is just for fun.

One thing Jeff forgot to mention with his barometer. This month we are going to try a reader's top ten. Send your top ten singles wrestlers and top ten tag teams to Jeff along with your barometer votes. They will be separate, but hopefully interest will be rekindled in the barometer as well as the top ten. If you've never cast you votes in the barometer before, it's easy to do. Just send along a list to Jeff of what you personally like and what you don't angle-wise.

I've decided after seeing a few of the Big K's Korner's, I can't stand them. The latest version had K burying tag teams that have left the AWA. He had the nerve to say that the rock and Roll Express had won four NWA tag team titles, but minor league titles were easy to win. The AWA titles would be more difficult. He also said he didn't know what had happened to a once great Midnight Rockers tag team. He suggested that they sell cars...or maybe wash them...or maybe sell some tee shirts. It doesn't sound so bad when an organization like the WWF or NWA bury someone, but the AWA doing it is beyond what I can stomach.

Most of the details have been worked out for the first United Association of Wrestling Fans convention in Memphis set for October 7 through 11. Members will be receiving information in the mail this next week and the newest edition of the magazine will be out in about three weeks. If you haven't joined, you don't know what you're missing! Only \$15.00 for a single membership gets you a year's worth. The address is UAWF, Box 215, Galesburg, IL 61402.

Roddy Piper's movie "Body Slam" should be in your local video stores soon if not now. The movie was never released in the Theatres. It may be a little hard to find, so be sure to ask for it. I've heard both good and bad about it, though more bad than good.

For those of you reporting in with results from the Great American Bash shows, use as much detail as you can. If we get more than one report on each, we'll use all that we can. Be sure to include your grades with your reports.

Morton Downey Jr, a talk show host from the East Coast is planning on doing a debate on wrestling. Jim Wilson, who along with Eddie Mansfield exposed the business on 20/20 is going to take the case of wrestling being fake. Downey is trying to find someone to defend the integrity of the sport. He went to Titan (boy was that dumb) to find someone and they turned him down. I'll be interested in seeing which side he takes. Downey used to be a radio talk show host in Chicago. A couple of years back, he himself got involved in wrestling by stepping into the ring with promoter Bob Luce's wife for a match. He hyped it big on his show at the time.

Windy City Wrestling Update...The tag team titles that the Terminators won in Dixon have been held up by the commissioner. There will be a one night tag team battle royal to determine the new champs and the ermsies are in it as well. They will go head to head with Crockett on the 9th, running a show in nearby Rockford. It will be a TV taping as well, and Paul E and Eddie Gilbert are scheduled to appear. The head to head will insure that the party at the Stay Out (a local gathering spot for wrestlers) will be interesting.

A couple of reader requests...Michael Salardino of Box 602, Martinsville, NJ 08336 is looking for tapes on a regular basis from Calgary, WATL (the block of wrestling), Blackwell's promotion, and Portland. If you can supply any of these, contact him to work out specifics.

Jeff Bowdren, 540 Ridgewood Lane, Plantation, FL 33317 has put together a tape list (and it's a good one with some rare stuff). Write to him for further details.

There are published reports this week that Ted Turner is selling off a whole bunch of his stock in WTBS, something like 45 million dollars worth (can that figure possibly be right?!?). This had led to some advanced speculation that he could not possibly be able to buy the Crockett promotion because he was basically liquidating his assets. However, I understand that he is going through a divorce and the TBS stock is something called community property and the nWA stock would not be. Don't feel bad if i just lost you...i just lost myself.

Well, looks like we're late again. Just too much stuff to do and not enough time. That plus a terrific case of writer's block!

Several issues ago we mentioned a feature called "Old Wrestlers Never Die, They Just Become..." which will take a look at some of the stars of yesterday who are doing regular jobs outside of wrestling now. I've completed the first two (drafts only) and they will be popping up in place of the third fall feature in some upcoming issues. If you know of wrestlers who might fit into this category and what they are doing today, please send them along.

Larry Finnegan, a former jobber, is being held on a murder charge in Connecticut for allegedly stabbing and strangling a 20 year old woman. As the story goes, she bit him while they were having sex.

That should pretty well put the wrap on another issue. We've got a loooong weekend with the 4th (I get the 4th and 5th off) and will be catching up on UAWF stuff and correspondence for those of you I owe stuff to. That and car shopping. See y'all in a couple of weeks.

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